

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

FEAE-00 INT-05 TAR-01 AGR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /082 W
----- 010282

P R 031957Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7334

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0442

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: POSTPONEMENT OF BA-MFM

REF: STATE 021494

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, I CALLED ON ACTING FONMIN CASTANEDA
ON JANUARY 31 TO DELIVER MY NOTE WITH THE TEXT OF THE TWO

PERTINENT STATEMENTS ON SUBJECT; AND REVIEWED HIGHLIGHTS OF
CONTENTS WITH HIM. I STRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE
PARTISAN NATURE OF THE OAS RESOLUTION AND THE UNJUSTIFIED
CONCEPT IN THE ARGENTINE POSTPONEMENT STATEMENT.

2. CASTANEDA LISTENED CAREFULLY AND SAID HE WOULD BRING OUR
VIEWS TO THE ATTENTION OF PRESIDENT MOLINA. HE THEN GAVE US
THE BENEFIT OF HIS OWN REACTION. HE RECALLED THAT THE GOES
FAVORED ATTENDING THE BA-MFM AND THAT PRES. MOLIN HAD DECLINED
TO SUPPORT VENEZUELAN PRES. PEREZ'S BOYCOTT PROPOSAL. HE NOTED
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THAT ARGENTINE FONMIN HAD PHRASED HIS SOUNDINGS OF THE GOES IN

TERMS OF THE ADVISABILITY OF POSTPONEMENT AND, UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, HE (CASTANEDA) FELT COMPELLED TO ACQUIESE IN THE EVIDENT DESIRE OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT. CASTANEDA ALSO THOUGHT THERE WAS MERIT IN A POSTPONEMENT FOR A "COOLING-OFF" PERIOD, GIVEN THE ADAMANT POSITION OF THE "OPPOSITIONIST" LA GOVERNMENTS. HE REITERATED THE GOES CONVICTION THAT ALL FORA, WHETHER THE INFORMAL MFM DIALOGUE OR OAS SPONSORED MFM'S, WERE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE UTILIZED FOR FRANK DISCUSSIONS TO CLARIFY POSITIONS AND REACH UNDERSTANDINGS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BA-MFM WOULD HAVE SERVED SUCH A PURPOSE AS REGARDS THE CONTROVERSIAL US TRADE LAW. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOES FAVORS RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT IT INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH MEETINGS.

3. NOTING THAT SEC. KISSINGER STILL PLANNED TO VISIT LA PRIOR TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE ASKED WHETHER PROPOSED VISIT WOULD BE LIMITED TO SOUTH AMERICA OR MIGHT INCLUDE A CENTRAL AMERICAN STOP AS WELL. HE SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MIGHT PROFITABLY INCLUDE A VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA WHICH, IN CASTANEDA'S JUDGEMENT, HAS STRONGER TRADITIONAL TIES TO AND IS MUCH MORE FAVORABLY INCLINED TOWARD THE US THAN ARE THE SOUTH AMERICAN STATES, SEVERAL OF WHICH HAVE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AMBITIONS. HE BELIEVED THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD READILY GO TO ANY CA CAPITAL TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY SHOULD BE AGREEABLE TO SUCH A MEETING.

4. AS TO THE GOES POSITION ON THE US TRADE LAW, CASTANEDA RECALLED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT, LIKE THOSE OF THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF COSTA RICA, RECOGNIZED THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS THE LAW MIGHT ENABLE THEM TO ENJOY AND SAID AS MUCH PUBLICLY IN THE JOINT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT OF SANTO TOMAS, GUATEMALA. THEY WERE OBLIGED, HOWEVER, BY THEIR NEW RELATIONSHIP TO VENEZUELA AND THE CONCEPT OF LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT THE DISCRIMINATORY ASPECTS OF THE LAW AS REGARDS SOME LA COUNTRIES, WHICH EVEN THE HIGHEST US OFFICIALS HAVE ADMITTED PUBLICLY.

5. SO FAR, THE LOCAL MEDIA HAS BEEN QUITE RESTRAINED IN ITS REACTION TO THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BA-MFM. BEYOND NOTING THE "CRISIS" IN US-LA RELATIONS, THERE HAS BEEN NO APPRECIABLE
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COMMENTARY, EDITORIAL OR OTHERWISE, DIRECTED TO THE POSTPONEMENT; AND WE DO NOT RPT NOT SENSE ANY DEGREE OF EITHER REGRET OR ALARM ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT, ON THE ONE HAND, NOR ANY INCLINATION TO WELCOME RETARDATION OF THE BA DIALOGUE OR TO ADVOCATE ITS ABANDONMENT ALTOGETHER, ON THE OTHER.
CAMPBELL

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